

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4, 2006 (BOS Mtg. 5/16/06)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Approval of FY2007 Local Arts Funding

Background

In 1989 the Board of Supervisors determined that visual and performing arts played an important role in the quality of life for York County citizens. In addition, looking into the future, the Board determined that the arts had the potential to be closely related to tourism and economic development activities. The Board further recognized that citizen involvement and input is essential to appropriately identify and recommend artists and arts organizations to be considered for support by such resources as might be designated by the Board of Supervisors for this purpose. To accomplish this, the Board established the York County Arts Commission (R89-78) with five appointees.

The charter reads:

“The York County Arts Commission shall serve as an advisory body to the York County Board of Supervisors for the cultural arts. Cultural arts are herein defined as dance, literary arts, media arts, music, theater, museums, visual and related arts.”

The functions are as follows:

- The Commission shall adhere to the operational procedures of the York County Arts Commission Project/Challenge Grant in administering the program, and shall not deviate without prior approval of the Board of Supervisors.
- The Commission shall encourage eligible individuals or organizations to apply for grants, and it shall devise efficient and fair ways to handle all applications.
- The Commission shall establish appropriate formal and specific guidelines for its own use in administering the grant program. These guidelines will be made available to any individual or organization requesting them.
- The Commission will review grant requests from individuals and organizations and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors concerning the distribution of budget appropriations for cultural arts.

- The Commission shall monitor each grant recipient to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant. To that end, the Commission shall require, as a condition to receiving a grant, each grant recipient to make a formal report regarding the use of funds appropriated under this grant program, and provide any other information requested by the Commission related to the expenditures of grant funds.

A copy of the above referenced grant guidelines is included for the Board's review.

Recommendations

The Board of Supervisors has appropriated \$64,000 for FY2007 for support of the arts. In addition, the County has applied for a Local Government Challenge Grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts for FY2007, in the amount of \$5,000. It is anticipated that notification of this grant award will not be made by the State until mid-June.

The York County Arts Commission has completed its review of FY2007 funding requests from local arts organizations. Although the Commission makes grant recommendations, the decisions rewarding awards are exclusively those of the Board of Supervisors.

The attached chart specifies recommended funding amounts for each organization and provides a brief explanation for funding. For the grant funding from the State, the Arts Commission would like the same percentage of the State funding recommended to go the Fifes and Drums of York Town, the Yorktown Arts Foundation, Virginia Symphony, Peninsula Community Theatre, Celebrate Yorktown Committee, and the York County Historical Museum, regardless of the total grant amount. As noted on this chart, 43 arts organizations applied for 51 grants. The Arts Commission is recommending that all of these organizations receive some grant funding in FY2007. The attached Resolution ratifies the distribution of County and State funds recommended by the York County Arts Commission.

It is recommended that proposed Resolution R06-55 to approve FY2007 County and State funding to local arts organizations be adopted.

Smith/4111

Attachments

- York County Project/Challenge Grant Program
- FY2007 Grant Funding Recommendations
- "Showcase of the Arts" booklet
- Proposed Resolution R06-55